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U.S. Department of Justice

Washington, D.C. 20530

DOJ Review Completed

STAT [redacted]

DEC 02 1982

Director of Central Intelligence
Security Committee

STAT [redacted]

This is in response to your memorandum SECOM-D-344 dated October 28, 1982, requesting comments/concurrence regarding the paper on a national policy on damage assessments.

I concur in the necessity for a national policy on damage assessments, that addresses the particular needs of the various communities which deal with classified information.

However, unless there is some method, e.g., a centralized data base, by which the information obtained through the assessment of a loss or compromise of classified information can be shared with other community organizations, it seems that a valuable tool for prevention of future leaks is being overlooked. A centralized compilation of damage assessments over a period of time is the best way to get top level attention focused on the problem of leaks.

While it is probably true that having an agency do its own damage assessments may result in occasional minimization of problems, I think that it is much more appropriate that each agency be allowed to develop an investigative tool that fits its own requirements. In the Department of Justice, for example, when a loss or compromise of classified information occurs, the Security Staff works with the Office of Professional Responsibility, an independent office, comparable to an Office of the Inspector General, which answers directly to the Attorney General and the Security Programs Manager of the Department component involved to determine the nature and extent of the compromise or loss and any action that needs to be taken as a result of the assessment. I concur with the necessity for follow-up on damage assessments, and believe that this should also be handled on an internal basis.

I heartily endorse the idea of newsletters for dissemination throughout both the SCI and collateral communities. In order to avoid duplication of effort, it would make sense that a single entity handle SCI matters with possibly another organization addressing collateral concerns.

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In Summary, the area of greatest need seems to be that of communication among the government agencies which handle classified information. I feel that the establishment of a formal means of sharing information relative to the loss or compromise of classified material should be part of any policy developed regarding damage assessments.

D. Jerry Rubino

D. Jerry Rubino, Director
Security Staff
Justice Management Division

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